

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:36

ANSWERED ON:20.11.2000

CONDITION OF ZOOS

M.V.V.S MURTHI;NEDURUMALLI JANARDHANA REDDY;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether the Supreme Court has recently expressed distressing conditions of various zoos in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the expert committee constituted to probe the death of White Tigers has since submitted its report to the Union Government;
- (c) if so, the details in this regard; and
- (d) the concrete steps the Government have taken/propose to take in view of Supreme Court's directions of deteriorating conditions of zoos in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R.BAALU)

(a) & (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Ministry of Environment and Forests have received the report of the Committee which was constituted to ascertain the causes of deaths of tigers and to suggest ways to avoid recurrence of the same in Nandankanan Zoo, Orissa. The report has confirmed that the main cause of the death of tigers was 'Trypanosomiasis'. It has -confirmed that the choice of the drug 'Berenil' used by the Zoo Administration was appropriate. It has also been observed that a large number of tigers in the zoo, lack of proper hygiene, and the onset of monsoon caused the increase in the incidence of vectors. The main recommendations of the report submitted by the Committee are as follows:-

- i. Screening of tigers, lions and other animals should be conducted on a regular basis and appropriate treatment be provided on the basis of the screening results.
- ii. Restraining facilities and isolation wards should be upgraded for effective treatment of the animals.
- iii. Immediate repair of the safari and boundary wall to safeguard against ingress of livestock.
- iv. All the carnivores should be provided feed in individual feeding cells to ensure supply of food in hygienic conditions and facilitating the physical handling of animals.
- v. Proper checking of the meat fed to the animals.
- vi. Improved cleanliness and better drainage.
- vii. Officer of the level of at least Deputy Conservator of Forests should be stationed at park with adequate administrative and financial powers.
- viii. Coordination between the Zoo Hospital and Orissa Veterinary College in matters of treatment of Zoo animals.

(d) The Supreme Court had directed the Ministry to submit the report of the said Committee along with the action taken by the Central Government on the report. The directions have been complied with.